As soon as the reports are received, we shall take further action.

Setting up of a Steel Plant near Bombay

*166. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached Japan's Mistsui Trading Company to provide assistance for setting up a dollar 60 million steel plant near Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IN DEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, I want to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether, keeping in view the demand for more and better steel in the country, the Government has adopted any measure to modernise the steel plants in the country. If so, how and if not, why?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In the existing integrated steel plants, modernisation is already going on in Durgapur as well as in Bokaro. And Rourkela is also in the pipeline. We are also thinking of having a project for modernisation in IISCO. This is in the process of going through the PIB for its consideration.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the political developments in the Soviet Union affect, in any way, the plants aided by that country? If so, what steps are the Government taking to meet that situation?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that we have got certain collaborations with the Soviet Union and some contracts were allotted to them. A delegation from our Ministry headed by the Secretary will visit that country during this month. And I hope that all the problems that are there will be solved.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned IISCO. Taking clue from that, I would like to know from the Minister this. The modernisation of that plant has been pending for a long time. And IISCO is the first steel plant in the country where about 30,000 workers are employed. The Japanese provided a rejuvenated plan but that we scuttled. I would like to know from the Minister what he is going to do about the modernising the plant, what are its details and when he is going to take it up.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, for the very interest of the plant it is not possible for me to say anything until and unless the PIB clears it. There are various alternatives. At the moment, I cannot tell what will be the final alternative. But one of the alternatives that you are suggesting is also there. The PIB will take the final decision. (*Interruptions*). We have recommended various alternatives. They will examine it. The PIB consists of representives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and others and they will examine it.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में जितने भी स्टील प्लांट हैं, उसमें प्रमुख स्टील प्लांट सरकार की तरफ से हैं, जैसे भिलाई, राऊरकेला, दुर्गापुर और वाइजेग है और प्राइवेट में टिस्को स्टील प्लांट है । क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो नए स्टील प्लांट लगाने की बात वे सोच रहे हैं, उसमें उन्होंने उसकी कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन पर अभी गौर किया है ? अभी सरकारी स्टील प्लांट में कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन प्रति टन कितनी है और प्राइवेट स्टील प्लांट में कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन प्रति टन कितनी है, क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I do not have the exact figures with me but it is a fact that the cost

of production of our integrated steel plant and that of TISCO which is in the private sector are different and it is our effort to see that cost-effective production is made. After I joined this Ministry, we have started this exercise so that we can reduce the consumption of coal, power and other raw-materials. I fully agree with the hon. Member that we should attach great importance to this and we are on the job.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, since fifties, a long-pending demand is there from Tamil Nadu to set up a plant in Salem and when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, an assurance was given that a steel plant would be set up in Salem and everybody was happy in Tamil Nadu that a steel plant would come. But we were terribly disappointed when it was made a fabricating plant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your supplementary.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is a long-pending demand of Tamil Nadu. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they will consider the demand of Tamil Nadu to set up a steel plant in Salem because it was a terrible disappointment for Tamil Nadu that it was made a fabricating plant. (*Interruption*). This shows the discriminatory attitude of the Centre. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I don't understand why the hon. Member is unhappy. The Salem steel plant for stainless steel is already on production and also we are going to have a second mill which is already in the advanced stage and that is also coming up and he will be very happy to know that I am going to that place after the Session to see that we can start the work immediately (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You are just hoodwinking the people of Tamil Nadu. It is adding insult to injury. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: There is nothing there. That is not a steel plant. That is a re-rolling mill. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They have been ignoring the demand of Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: In fact, no Minister is answering the question. You must give a specific answer. We want a specific answer on this. (*Interruptions*). It is not a satisfactory answer. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:*

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is understood. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no only he can ask. This is not the way. Nothing of what they have said will go on record ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Salem Steel Plant is there. What probably he meant is originally it was supposed to be an integrated steel plant...

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I want a specific answer...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:*

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I must tell you what it actually gives. I cannot give a decision on a steel plant standing in the House. I am not competent. Now delicensing is there. Any State Government with a private undertaking can take it up. It can be under joint sector, there is no harm. And from my Ministry whatever help is necessary, we will provide...

*Not recorded.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, Tamil Nadu people were given as assurance by the then Prime Minister. Sir, he has not followed my question. He has not understood it....

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, the Minister has not understood the question of steel plant...

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:*

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Kindly remember, except the person who has been allowed to put a question or a supplementary, anything said by others will not go on record.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that per worker steel production in India is very much less compared to other countries of the world. Korea is producing one million tonnes with one lakh workers. India is not producing even one million tonnes with 17 lakh workers. What are you going to do for increasing per-worker production? Do you want to link the wage to productivity?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the question before us is setting up of a steel plant near Bombay. Now the question which are put to me are very important questions, but off the cuff I cannot give answers. These are questions to be based on statistics. I can lay them on the Table or send them to the hon. Members later. I am not prepared with that particular type of question, but it is a fact that the cost of production of steel is higher in the country than in other countries of the world. It is our continuous effort to see that cost of production is taken down and we will continue that process.

*Not recorded.

*167. [*The questions (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain) were absent, For answer vide re...32—35 infra*]

SOS to UN on bonded labour

*168. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:†
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmnet's attention has been drawn to the report under caption "SOS to UN on bonded labour", which appeared in the Times of India dated August 5, 1991, to the effect that the Bandhua Mukti Morcha have approached the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva about the conditions and population of bonded labour in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. The Press Report purports to submissions made by the representative of the Bandhua Mukti Morcha before the United Nations Human Rights Commission on varied issues relating to the problems of bonded labour in the country. It has been stated *inter alia* that despite assurances a Commission on bonded labour had yet to be set-up; no violator of the case has been subject to punishment in Jail; the number of persons actually in bondage especially children is indeterminate and that child labour was rampant in carpet making.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bekal Utsahi.